

R E P O R T.

F O R T H E Y E A R 1943.

Presented to the

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY

Dr. C. S. E. WRIGHT, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



August, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Ward and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the twelve months ending December, 30th, 1943, on the health and sanitary conditions of the Spilsby Rural District.

As for 1942, I am directed by the Ministry of Health that the Annual Report shall give only a brief survey of matters of public interest, and contain no complete tables of local population or figures by which an estimate of such could be constructed. Similarly, no references are to be made to activities in connection with war time industrial or military development such as water supply, sewerage or other public utility undertakings.

I am pleased to be able to report that in 1943 the health of the Spilsby Rural District continued to be good, better indeed than in 1939. The whole community is now quite used to the diet which may, at times, be monotonous but sufficient for our needs, as proved by the satisfactory state of the health of all sections of the public. There is no evidence of a deficiency in any class of food stuff. 1943 (the fourth full year of war) saw very little change in the food rations. The slight improvement for agricultural workers was a great boon particularly in the summer when long hours were being worked. One wishes that at hay-time and harvest the meat ration of the farm labourer could be increased.

From the public health point of view we have to be thankful that during the year the peoples' sleep has been little disturbed by enemy night raids.

1. Vital Statistics.

The figures in this report are compiled from the monthly returns I receive from the local Registrars but do not include figures relating to non-civilians.

Area. The area remains unchanged, namely 143,030 acres in 69 parishes. The population is estimated at xxx. There has been a large number of non-civilians quartered in the district and with them a proportion of women and children.

The Rateable Value is £83,005 and £345. 17. 1d represents the value of a penny rate.

The number of inhabitable houses is 7,155.

Births. There were 399 live births, of these 218 were male and 181 were female. The number of births represents a rate of xxx per thousand of the population. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.5. The figure of 399 live births corresponds with 344 for 1942 and 403 for 1941.

Deaths. These numbered 280; of which 130 were male and 150 were female, representing a death rate per thousand of the population of xxx and compared with a similar for the whole county of 12.1, the deaths for 1942 were 252 and in 1941 261.

There were 15 deaths (13 male, 2 female) of infants under 1 year of age, giving a rate per thousand live births of 37.6. The rate for England and Wales was 49. The figure of 37.6 for the Spilsby District is most satisfactory.

There were 46 deaths due to Cancer, 66 to heart disease and 3 cases of Suicide.

2. General Provision of Health Services.

The staff of the Public Health Services underwent considerable changes in 1943. Mr. F.J. Lofthouse left to take up an appointment with the County Council and Mr. R.B. Bolt also left to take up an appointment which would widen his experience. Miss E.M. Crowe was obliged to resign for family reasons. Mr. G.A. Farrow was appointed First Additional Sanitary Officer and temporary help obtained when possible for clerical work. The post of Second Additional Sanitary Officer was for some months vacant. This shortage of staff has thrown a great strain on Mr. Bailey and Mr. Farrow; a great deal of their time having to be spent on duties that should have been done by a rent collector or a clerk in the office. Fortunately, Mr. Bailey did not have to devote a

great deal of his time to the surveying of First Aid Repair of property damaged by enemy action.

Mr. Farrow has been put in charge of the Rescue Service of the Civil Defence.

Laboratory Examinations are carried out by the County Council at the Technical College, Lincoln and by the Clinical Research Association in London. The former is being used more and more by Medical men practising in the district and is of great help in many cases. Water analyses are carried out by Mr. W.W. Taylor of Nottingham. Hospitals, Clinics and Ambulances remain unchanged. Infectious diseases are sent, when necessary, to the Isolation Hospital, Osgodby, or the Grimsby Corporation Hospital at Scartho'. When these have been full the Skegness Isolation Hospital has taken cases for us. From the south of the District, Infectious diseases are usually sent to the Boston Fever Hospital. The Voluntary Car Pool scheme of the W.V.S. has been of great assistance in carrying invalids and elderly people when obliged to travel.

Midwifery and Maternity Cases. The County Council is the local supervising body under the Midwives Act for the whole of Lindsey.

The present difficulty in getting domestic help and nursing facilities in the home has resulted in more and more expectant mothers seeking Hospital and Nursing Home accommodation for their confinements. The Maternity block at the Louth County Infirmary is not sufficient now for the demands on it.

The Grace Swan Cottage Hospital has a scheme in hand for the building of more maternity accommodation but nothing can be done until after the war.

This increase in maternity beds is very necessary as undoubtedly the trend towards hospital facilities will continue after the war. It is a great pity that the Maternity ward at the Public Institution at Spilsby cannot be used.

Scabies. At the beginning of 1943 there was some increase in the number of Scabies cases in the district. This was due to a fresh source of infection brought by men working on camp sites etc. By the co-operation of all parties concerned, the number of cases was very materially reduced. By the end of the year the number of cases was probably not more than in peace time. It has not been found necessary in any case to have recourse to the Special Powers Granted to Local Authorities by the 1941 Ministry of Health Order in Council.

There are now no facilities in the Spilsby Rural District for the disinfection of infected clothing etc., but these facilities can be obtained in neighbouring towns.

Venereal Disease. I am pleased to be able to report that, unlike a great part of the country, there is very little if any increase in Venereal trouble in the district. Very few cases of Gonorrhoea or Syphilis have been brought to my notice.

A clinic for the treatment of these diseases is in operation at Skegness and people affected have generally been willing to avail themselves of it.

Diphtheria Immunisation of Children. The progress of the drive to get all children between one year and school leaving age protected against Diphtheria has been considerable during the year. The great improvement has been in the number of children between 1-5 years who have been given the protection. This has largely been due to the work of the Health Visitors but also to the fact that people are beginning to realise the importance of immunisation. During the year 1073 children were given protection, 400 under 5 years and 673 between 5 - 15 years. 74.34% of the approximate estimated number of children in the Authorities Area had received immunisation on December 31st, 1943. This is a very fair proportion but I am hoping to improve on these figures during 1944. The percentage on December 31st, 1942, was 52.04%.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the School Teachers in this as in every other matter affecting the health of the children.

3. Prevalence of Disease. I am pleased to be able to report that 1943 was a good year in the Spilsby Rural District as regards infectious diseases. Throughout the year there was a considerable number of cases of Measles, few were of a serious type and there were remarkably few with complications. There was a small Epidemic of Influenza at the beginning of the year and another in the Autumn, but neither were of a serious type except in a few cases; seven deaths were attributed directly or indirectly to this disease.

Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with 20 for 1942 and 28 for 1941 and 35 for 1940. There were no deaths from this disease. Scarlet Fever as seen lately appears to have a very low degree of infectivity; often only one child of a large family contracts the disease when all have been exposed to infection.

There was only one case of Diphtheria reported during the year. This was in a week-end visitor to the district. The child's parents had refused to allow the child to be immunised. The child died, a needless death. This figure of one case in the year is probably the lowest since records have been kept.

Unlike a large part of the Country there were no cases of Dysentery notified in the district, but in the Summer and still more so in the Autumn there were large numbers of cases of Diarrhoea. These cases occurred in people of all ages and often whole households were affected. In the Winter the epidemic subsided. The cause of the trouble was doubtful, but I am convinced that there has been no lowering in the host-resistance due to improper feeding, or physical or mental fatigue owing to war conditions.

There were 23 cases of Tuberculosis notified 20 of the Pulmonary type and 3 of other forms of the disease. This compares with 19 cases in 1942 and 18 in 1941.

There were only 27 cases of Whooping Cough notified, a very small number, but no real criterion of the number of affected children as many cases are not reported to the Medical Men in the District. There was one death from this disease.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases among civilians.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet Fever.	17	0
Diphtheria.	1	1
Enteric Fever.	0	0
Puerperal Fever.	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Erysipelas	2	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	0
Measles	244	1
Whooping Cough	27	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	20	}19.
Tuberculosis (other forms)	3	

We had one small outbreak of food poisoning. A whole household (4 adults) were taken very seriously ill, being affected with a microbe of the Salmonella group. In spite of exhaustive search, the source of the trouble could not be traced. Some suspected tinned meat proved, on analysis, to be quite free of infection. All the patients eventually recovered.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

1943 was a very dry year and followed on another year of low rainfall in 1942. The result was that the level of water in the ground and in the wells was the lowest for some years. Large parts of the district, even to the end of the year were very short of water for domestic and dairy purposes. A great deal of time had to be used in carrying water, often from a distance, to supply the cattle and this at a time when there was a great shortage of labour. Unquestionably a certain amount of the souring of milk was due to this shortage of water in many of the farms. I look forward to the time when every house and farm will be served with a piped supply of good water for all purposes. This ideal must be tackled as soon

as possible after the war; its attainment will be a long and costly business but the present state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue and the benefit to the housewife will be incalculable. With it must come the spread of electricity and sewage schemes.

Coastal Water Schemes.

Whilst it has not been found possible to complete the Coastal Water Scheme owing to the exigences of the times, some comfort may be drawn from the fact that as a result of the long/continued drought conditions, farmers in the area who have been experiencing great difficulty in finding sufficient water for their livestock have been somewhat relieved by a scheme put into operation by the Water Engineer. The water from the Mumby bore which previously had been allowed to run to waste has been diverted into the supply mains and thus made available for the watering of cattle etc. It is estimated that some 50,000 gallons per day are thus brought into service and the popularity of the scheme is proved by the fact that some 70 odd consumers have been connected up to the supply.

Fen Water Supply.

The source of the Fen area water supply continues to be prolific in its yield inspite of the two years of low rainfall and at the present time it is in excess of 137,000 gallons per day.

The estimated consumption during the year under review was approximately 80,000 gallons per day and assuming the population now being supplied to be 5,500, the average consumption per head per day is equal to 14.5 gallons, being a reduction of 2.77 gallons per head on the figures for 1942 for all purposes.

There are 312 metered supplies operating in the area representing an increase in the number operating in 1942 of 74. This increase is largely due to the addition of the Wainfleet St. Mary's district where it was found necessary to meter some 53 supplies when that district was merged into the main Fen Scheme.

During the year there were 93 applications in the Area for new and extended supplies, being an increase of 25 over the previous year.

These consisted of:-

Domestic supplies	21
Metered supplies.	21
Extensions.	26
Standpipe supplies.	10
Field Supplies.	15
	<hr/>
	93

A new booster pump, capable of increasing the pressure from 50 to approximately 200 ft. of head has been installed during the year and it would seem that the complaints of lack of pressure at the extremities of the supply experienced during peak periods have been overcome as a result of such installation.

Water Samples.

Ten samples of water were taken from various sources in the District outside the Fen Scheme. Three adverse reports were received. Notices were served on the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome and satisfactory supply for the use of the inmates.

5. Milk.

With regard to the serious question of milk which has been lost of late years as a result of souring due to various causes, there was in 1943 considerable improvement. I think we may consider that this is due to (a) the constant visits and suggestions of the Sanitary staff, (b) the adoption of roadside milk shelters, in many cases, near the farm, for milk collection (c) improved cowsheds to modern buildings (d) a more regular and quicker motor collection at the farms and (e) more regard to sterilisation of milk vessels. There is, however, still far too much milk going sour in the summer time. This is undoubtedly partly due to a shortage of water and partly to shortage of time and labour.

There are now 813 registered cowsheds in the Spilsby Rural District, 29 being added during the year. Two cowsheds were struck off the list the occupiers having stated that they were giving up milk production.

During the year alterations and reconstruction of cowsheds and dairies was completed or put in hand in 28 premises. In 36 others similar work is waiting to be started.

6. Housing.

Owing to the present emergency, no new houses were built in 1943 by private or public enterprise.

Many houses are needing repairs and alterations and each year the amount accumulates. The root of the difficulty in the repair and decoration of houses is labour and material. Undoubtedly after the war there will be a great demand for improvement and repairs of existing houses as well as for new building.

Unoccupied houses.

An inspection of empty dwelling houses in twenty-five parishes was carried out with the intention of ascertaining why some houses remained empty in spite of the great demand for accommodation. The reasons were found to be mainly (a) condemned houses (b) isolated or in bad repair (c) habitable but unable to get labour. People in these days will not live in uncomfortable houses, far from a road and without any of the amenities expected at the present time and who will blame them.

Agricultural Workers Cottages.

The Council's programme for the erection of 22 agricultural workers cottages, in various parts of the district as a war-time emergency programme designed by the Ministry of Health to meet the special difficulties which have arisen in some rural areas from the substantial development of war-time agriculture, has not yet started. The erection of these houses seems beset with difficulties and delays and that the work has not yet commenced is in no way the fault of the Council or its Officers. How far it will be possible for the agricultural labourer to pay an economic rent for these houses when built is another matter.

Overcrowding Houses Act, 1936.

One case of overcrowding was found and the same abated.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

One application was received during the year and it was decided to apply the maximum grant of £100.

7. Scavenging.

No change has taken place in the scavenging services since my last report. The work is done by contract in the parishes of Spilsby, Burgh, Wainfleet All Saints, Hogsthorpe, Chapel St. Leonards and Ingoldmells.

It is noticeable that the cost for the yearly removal of house refuse etc., in the above parishes has increased from £936 (1938-39 period) to £1212 (1943/44 period). The cost will increase year by year for there is no competition for the contract for carrying out this work and the question of direct labour will, at some early date, have to be considered by the Council.

By the necessity for materials for war, village dumps were formed, with the result that the public in the villages have got into the habit of throwing their tins and other rubbish on the dump. This matter will also have to be considered because it has always been the custom, prior to salvage collection, to bury the tins and continuance of village tin dumps irrespective of official notices against dumping will, I fear, tend to remain.

8. Slaughter Houses.

No change has taken place regarding the slaughter of animals for human consumption; the same being killed at the Government slaughter houses at Skegness and Horncastle.

Food Condemned during the year:-

Tinned foods.

- 1 - tin 6lbs Pork Luncheon Meat.
- 15 - 1b tins Baked Beans
- 2 - large tins Baked Beans.
- 1 - 15 oz tin Pilchards.
- 1 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs tin chopped Ham.
- 1 - 15 oz tin Herrings.

Meat.

- 174 lbs of Beef (decomposition).
- 1 hindquarter of Beef - Tuberculosis.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

A total of 27,601 rats tails were received and destroyed during the year at the various centres of receiving throughout the District. For each rat's tail twopence is paid involving a sum of £230. 0. 2d.

I have the honour to be Mrs Ward and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. Wright

M.B. B.C. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department.

Spilsby Rural District.

Report of work doen by Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1943.

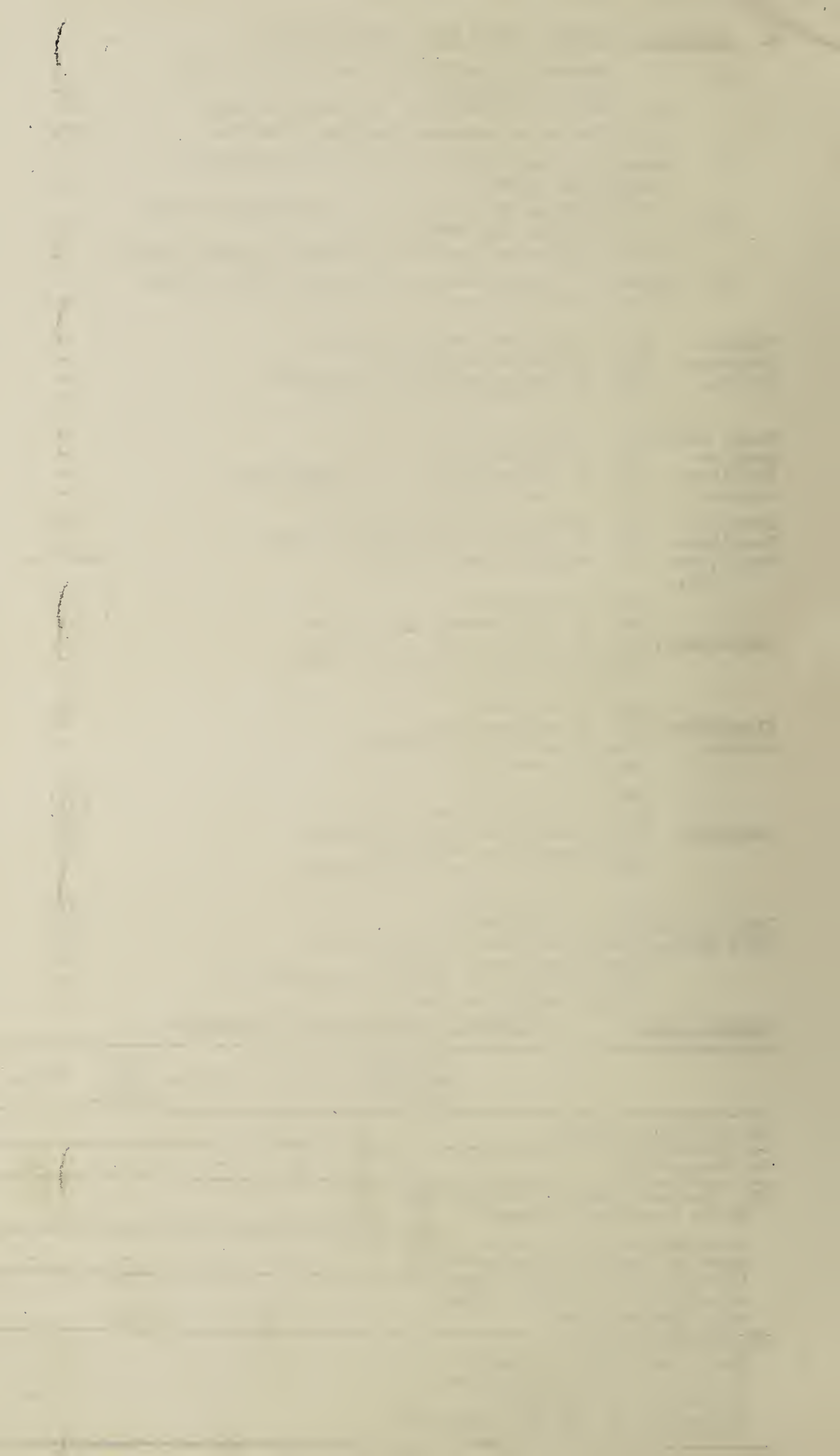
Total number of new houses erected during the year.		-
{1)	By the Local Authority.	-
{ii)	By other Local Authorities.	-
{iii)	By other bodies or persons.	-
1. <u>Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.</u>		
(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	185.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	361.
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	12.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	26.
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	12.
2. <u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-</u>		
	Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	151.
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>		
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	-
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	-
(a)	by owners.	-
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners.	-
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	-
(a)	by owners.	-
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	-
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	-
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	-
(3)	Number of dwelling houses subject to undertakings	-
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	-
(2)	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	-

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. - Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	31.
	(11) Number of families dwelling therein.	31.
	(111). Number of persons dwelling therein.	137.
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	1.
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	1.
	(11) Number of persons concerned in such cases.	7.
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved.	-
Common Lodging-Houses.	(No. registered under byelaws.	-
	(No. of inspections made.	-
	(No. of contraventions of byelaws.	-
	(No. of contraventions remedied.	-
Canal Boats used as dwelling houses.	(No. registered under Acts.	-
	(No. of inspections.	-
	(No. of contraventions of regulations.	-
	(No. of contraventions remedied.	-
Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans etc.	(No. inspected during year.	114.
	(No. of nuisances therefrom abated	3.
	(No. removed from district.	unknown.
	(No. in district.	41.
	(No. of underground bakehouses.	-
Bakehouses.	(No. of inspections.	47.
	(Contraventions of Factory Acts.	-
	(Defects remedied.	-
	(No. on register.	30.
Slaughter-Houses.	(No. of inspections.	12.
	(Contraventions of byelaws.	-
	(Defects remedied.	-
	(No. on register.	813.
	(No. of inspections.	460.
Cowsheds.	(Contraventions of regulations.	64.
	(Contraventions remedied.	28.
	(No. of milch cows in district.	?
	(No. on register.	796.
Dairies and Milk Shops.	(No. of inspections.	392.
	(Contraventions of regulations.	15.
	(Contraventions remedied.	12.
	(Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year.	-

Unsound Food. Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed(if known)					
No. inspected.	-	-	-	-	2
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.					
Caracases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.					
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.					



Offensive Trades	{	No. of premises in district	3
	{	No. of inspections.	22
	{	Contraventions of byelaws.	-
	{	Contraventions remedied.	-
Shops Act, 1934.	{	No. of shops inspected	-
	{	Additional heating or ventilation.	-
	{	Additional sanitary conveniences	-
Wells.	{	New sunk.	1
	{	Cleansed, repaired	2
	{	Closed as polluted.	-
Area Supplies: Wainfleet All Saints, Wainfleet St. Mary, Croft, Friskney, Spilsby, Hundleby, Raithby, Burgh, Orby, Welton, Gunby, Candlesby, Bilsby, Markby, Well, Sibsey, Frithville, Carrington, West Fen, Toynton All Saints, Toynton St. Peter, Halton Holegate, Little Steeping, Thorpe St. Peter, East Keal, Stickford, Stickney, New Leake, Eastville, Midville, Old Bolingbroke, Langton, Mavis Enderby.			
Fen Water Scheme 84 per cent comprising parishes of Friskney, West Fen, Toynton All Saints, Halton Holegate, Little Steeping, Toynton St. Peter, Thorpe St. Peter, East Keal, West Keal, Stickford, Stickney, New Leake, Eastville, Midville.			
Percentage of houses supplied at Burgh 38 per cent.			
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
Percentage of houses supplied at			
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
New cisterns provided			
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered etc.			
Number of Samples obtained for analysis			
{ (a) from Wells			
{ (b) from public supply			
Any insufficiency and where			
Closets.	{	No. of houses with privy vaults in district	3128
	{	No. of houses with pail closets in district	2404
	{	No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	-
	{	No. of pail closets repaired.	15
	{	No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles.	-
	{	No. of houses with water closets in district	1602.
Drains.	{	No. of water closets repaired.	-
	{	Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	17
	{	" unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	11
	{	Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired, etc.	2
	{	New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed.	1
	{	Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired.	1
Sewers.	{	Drains reconstructed	11
	{	(New lengths of sewer laid.	-
Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.	{	Alterations to sewage disposal works.	-
	{	Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells.	-
Cesspools.	{	Cesspools rendered impervious	-
	{	" emptied, cleansed, etc.	28
	{	" abolished.	-

<u>Disinfection.</u>	(Rooms disinfected		
	{ (a) ordinary infectious disease	16	
	{ (b) tuberculosis	2	
	(Rooms stripped and cleansed	-	
	(Articles disinfected or destroyed	-	
<u>House</u>	{ (a) ordinary infectious disease	-	
	{ (b) tuberculosis	-	
	(No. of covered ashpits	3791	
	(No. of uncovered ashpits	-	
	{ No. of bins substituted for ashpits.	-	
<u>Refuse.</u>	(No. of houses using bins.	3329	
	(Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger? Public Scavenger at Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe and Ingoldmells.		
	(How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	weekly.	
	(No. of complaints of non-removal	6	
	(Method of final disposal.	tipping.	
<u>Nuisances.</u>	(Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	yes.	
	(Total number of Nuisances during year:-		
	{ (1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector.		
	{ (2) Reported to Council.	(Statutory notice issued. -	
	{ " " not "	-	
<u>Details of Nuisances abated.</u>		After formal intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
	(Overcrowding	1	-
	(Smoke	-	-
	(Accumulation of refuse	3	-
	(Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water.	-	-
	(Foul pigs and other animals	2	-
	(Dampness	3	-
	(Yards repaved or repaired	-	-
	(Other nuisances.	11	-
Any Assistants? Yes - Two.			

